Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Richard P. Breed, III

Partner

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View Full Bio

Richard P. Breed, III is an estate planning attorney in Shipman's Boston office. For more than three decades, Rick has guided families, business owners, fiduciaries, and institutions through the complexities of estate planning, business succession, and wealth preservation. Clients value his balanced approach – combining deep technical knowledge of tax law with a practical understanding of family and business dynamics – enabling him to craft strategies that safeguard assets while honoring long-term personal and financial goals.

Rick advises high-net-worth individuals and families on multigenerational planning, business transitions, and strategies to minimize estate, gift, and income taxes. He frequently counsels fiduciaries and beneficiaries on trust and estate administration, guiding them through valuation, governance, and compliance challenges while helping to resolve conflicts. His practice also includes advising business owners on structuring companies, mergers, acquisitions, and reorganizations in coordination with estate planning objectives.

Known for creating forward-looking plans that address both family needs and legal obligations, Rick designs trusts to preserve inheritances against creditors or divorce claims, drafts agreements that smooth leadership transitions in family businesses, and advises on charitable giving structures that align with clients' philanthropic goals. His work is informed by decades of experience and his leadership within the estate planning community, including serving as President of the Boston Estate Planning Council.

Rick was a founding member of Tarlow, Breed, Hart & Rodgers, P.C. before joining Shipman.

Distinctions

- *Estate Planner of the Year*, Boston Estate Planning Council 2012
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America®: Trusts & Estates and Closely Held Companies & Family Businesses* (2011-2026)

- Listed as a Massachusetts Super Lawyer® (2004-2025)

Teaching Positions

- New England School of Law 1986-1987, Adjunct Professor, Advanced Corporate Tax and Business Planning
- Suffolk University Law School, Boston 1989-1997, Adjunct Professor, Estate Planning
- Bentley College Twenty-Fourth Annual Federal Tax Forum Estate and Gift Tax Workshop
- Various seminars for Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc.

Professional Affiliations

- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Boston Bar Association
- Estate Planning Law Specialist - Certified by the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils (NAEPC), accredited by the American Bar Association (2009)
- Estate Planning Curriculum Committee, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc.
- National Association of Estate Planners & Councils
- Boston Estate Planning Council, Former President and Member
- Fiduciary Trust Company, Boston, Massachusetts; Board of Directors, Audit Committee

Community Involvement

- AIDS Action Committee - Pro Bono estate planning services
- Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA - Former Chair, Board of Trustees
- Northeast Arc, Danvers, MA - Advisory Board
- Tedesco Country Club, Marblehead, MA - Nominating Committee and Former President

Credentials

Education

- Suffolk University School of Law, J.D., 1978, *cum laude*
- Boston University School of Law, LL.M, 1981, Taxation
- Bowdoin College, B.A., 1971

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of MA
- U.S. Tax Court